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AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Scotch PLOT,

In a LETTER, from a Gentleman in the
City, to his Friend in the Country.

1704

SIR,

I Have according to your desire, made an Enquiry into the Scotch Plot so much talk'd of. I have convers'd with several Persons of Quality of that Kingdom about it and find them not well pleas'd, that so many here should charge a Plot upon their whole Nation, for the sake of a few. They think this so much the harder, because Captain *Simon Fraser* of *Beaufort*, the Principal manager of this Plot, is a Person guilty of most notorious Crimes, and is condemn'd to Death in *Scotland* for a barbarous Rape: yet this Man has been countenanc'd by great Persons in that Government, and Hear-lays from him alone are made use of against some of the greatest Families in that Nation, who prosecuted him, or appear'd for having Justice done upon him according to Law for his villainious and horrid Crimes, as I shall acquaint you more at large anon, after giving you a short Narrative of what I have learn'd concerning the Plot.

Captain *Fraser* above-mention'd having fled from Justice twice, at last went over to *St. Germaine*, and as Sir *John Maclean* has declar'd upon Oath, turn'd Papist, and was introduc'd to the French Court by the Pope's Nuncio. There he sollicit'd an Invasion upon *Scotland*, and gave them assurance that several People of Note would join their Troops: But the French King willing to be sure of that, before he would trust him, order'd him back to *Scotland*, with one Captain *John Murray* and Major *Fraser*, a Papist, who had serv'd several Years in his Army.

Captain *Fraser* arriv'd accordingly in *Scotland* last Summer, having received Five hundred Pistoles from the French King, and though a condemn'd Criminal, as above-mention'd, and that he had likewise forfeited his Life again by his Correspondence with the Courts of *France* and *St. Germaine*, yet he was privately introduc'd by the late D. of Ar ——— and the E. of L ——— to a great Minister of State there, while the Parliament was sitting, and received from the said Minister 300 Guineas,

with a Pass and Protection. Being thus furnish'd, the Captain and the Major went to the High-lands. He endeavour'd to ~~come~~ with several Heads of Clans there, but they refus'd to meet or converse with him, till he sent to shew them before-hand the Pass and Protection granted by the Minister of State, and at the same time he shew'd them his Commission and Instructions from the pretended King James the VIIIth (as they call him in Scotland) dated at St. Germain, and by this Means he seduc'd and travan'd several of Her Majesty's Subjects into Design against the Government. The D. of A ——— Brack'd to the Lady, whom he had ravish'd, bearing that Captain Frazer was in Scotland, complain'd of it, and at the Instance of the injur'd Lady, the Council issued a Commission of Fire and Sword against the Captain in September last (the Lord High Commissioner being present) forbidding the Subjects to converse with him, and ordering the Sheriffs and Officers of the Army to pursue and apprehend him dead or alive. Notwithstanding this, he found Means to return to Edinburgh, where he procur'd another Pass from the D. of Q ——— to carry him to London, where he arriv'd in October last, and there met privately with the said D. of Q ——— John Campbel of Glenderoul, Mr. Keetch, and others, and then the said D. of Q ——— procur'd a pass for the said Captain and Major, and two more to go beyond Sea. Since that time several Letters have been intercepted from the Captain, one from Holland to the said D. of Q ——— and one from Paris to the said E. of L ——— with several others to Colin Campbel of Glenderoul, now in Custody at London, and one to Captain Maccleod, an Officer of the Guards in Scotland; all which it's hop'd will in a little time will be made publick. When the Captain went beyond Sea last, he received Bills for 100 and odd Guineas, which Campbel paid unto Mr. Corbussiere, a Merchant, who has own'd the sending of the said Bills, upon Examination. Some Papers that Frazer left in the Custody of Thomas Clerk, an Apothecary, have been since discovered, amongst which is found a Colonels Commission from the pretended King James the VIIIth, to the said Simon Frazer, and two forg'd Bonds from the late Lord Lovat in Scotland for considerable Sums to him: Of which you shall have a further Account anon.

That which relates more particularly to the D. of A ——— and his Friends is thus, The said Colin Campbel and Captain Maccleod have declar'd upon Examination. That they heard the said Captain Frazer say, that the said D. of A ——— and his Friends design'd to send some Persons as their Agents into France.

The first Notice the D. of A ——— had of this design against himself and his Friends, was sent him from Mr. F ——— on the 25th of November last, importing that there were most pernicious Designs carrying on against her Majesty and the Government, together with a wicked Contrivance to ruin his Grace and his Friends by means of Captain Frazer, and Witnesses of his procuring. The D. immediately acquainted the Government with it, who sent for Mr. F ——— that inform'd him, and what that Gentleman said upon his Examination has been since confirm'd by the intercept'd Letters above-mentioned.

But that you may fully understand the Character of the Captain, and the Cause of his insupportable Malice against the D. of A ——— and his Friends. take this short History of it as follows.

Captain Frazer was a Cadet of the Family of Lovat, but had no manner of Estate, the late Lord Lovat knowing the meanest of his Circumstances, recommended him to the Earl of T ——— now D. of A ——— for a Lieutenants Post in Regiment, the Earl had then in King William's Service, about 1694. which the Earl readily agreed to; but soon after, the Captain wrote seditious Letters dated in Jan. 1695. one of them triumphing at the death of the late Queen Mary of Glorious Memory, and the other expressing his Hopes that King William would die next year, which Letters being sent to the Earl by some of his Friends, sometime after, he could not but in abhorrence of the Captain's Villany acquaint his Majesty with it, who thereupon gave the Earl orders to turn him out of his Regiment, which was done.

In 1696 The Lord *Lovat* abovementioned died, leaving behind four Daughters by the D. of *A——*'s Sister, the eldest of whom by unquestionable Title fell Heir to the Honour and Estate, but *Thomas Frazer* and the said Captain *Simon* his Son pretending to be the next heirs Male, assembled some loose Men of the Name to seize the Estate, and committed some Violences and Devastations upon it, but being sensible they had made themselves obnoxious by this illegal Attempt, they agreed in order to prevent Prosecution, to sign a Renunciation of all their alledg'd pretensions before the Lord *Salton* and other Witnesses, and sent the same to the Earl of *T——* now D. of *A——* who was then at London, and principal Secretary of State for Scotland.

But notwithstanding this Renunciation, the Captain attempted again to possess himself of the Estate in the following Manner. He assembled a great many loose Men of the Name, and marched with them in Arms to the Lady *Dowager* of *Lovats* Joynture-house of *Castle-Downie*, and in his way met Lord *Mungo Murray* the Lady's Brother; and the Lord *Salton* abovementioned coming from paying a Visit to the said Lady. He immediately seiz'd and dismounted the said Lords and their Servants, carried them Prisoners to a neighbouring House, where he set Guards upon them, and erected a Gallows, threatening to hang them if they would not persuade the Lady *Dowager* to marry him, (by which he thought to possess the Estate himself, and to convey it to his own Issue-Male if he had any, in Exclusion of her Daughters.) This they absolutely refus'd, and he leaving them under a barbarous Guard, march'd on to *Castle-Downie*, where he surpriz'd and imprison'd the Lady, and upon her absolute refusal to marry him, made his barbarous Crew cut off her Stays, &c. with their Daggers, and putting her to Bed by force, committed a villanous Rape upon her; the Grief of which made her lose her Senses for some time. He kep'd the Lady in that deplorable Condition, until the late Marquis of *A——* her Father and the Government sent Forces to rescue her from the said Captain, who continued in Rebellion, notwithstanding his being summon'd by a *Herald* to lay down his Arms; but being forc'd to it at last, the Lady was deliver'd to the Lord *Forbes*, and the Captain not daring to abide Trial, fled. Upon this the Council of Scotland and High Courts of Justiciary there declar'd him Rebel, Fugitive and Outlaw, and issued a Proclamation, offering 6000 Marks to any that should apprehend him. He absconded for a time, but in 1700 or 1701, procur'd King *William's* Pardon for his Rebellion and other publick Crimes, but not for the Rape. This Remission being of an extraordinary Nature the Principal Secretary of State refus'd to countersign it, but the Under-Secretary did it at the Instance of Mr. *C——* one of his Majesty's Scotch Chaplains, then attending him in *Holland*.

Upon this the Captain returned to Scotland, but the injured Lady by the Assistance of her Father, and the now Duke of A—— her Brother pursued him again, and that the Captain might have no pretence to abscond, all former Sentences were suspended during the Trial. The Lady appeared in Court, and publicly demanded Justice, the Captain was call'd three times according to form, and also in town at the time, fled again, upon which the Court condemned him, and issued out Orders to apprehend him, which fully satisfied the Nation of his Guilt. It is to be observed that at the same time the Captain procur'd his Remission, he forg'd a Deed and two Bonds for considerable Sums from the late Lord Lovat to himself, making over the Estate to the said Captain, in prejudice of the said Lords own Daughter, which had his Lordship been inclin'd to do, he could not, his Lordships Father by a previous Settlement, having entail'd the Estate upon Daughters, failing issue Male, and when this Deed and the said Bonds were produc'd to one of the Lords of the Session or Judges, the said Judge did presently discover the Forgery, upon which the Captain took them out of his Hands, and never made more use of them.

Thus, SIR, you may judge, whether the D. of A—— and his Friends have not Reason to Complain, That contrary to the Laws of Scotland, which make Correspondence with Rebels Criminal, such Countenance and Incouragement should be given, especially by Men of dignity and High Posts, to such a Man as Capt. Frazer, or that any Credit should be given to his Accusation, or to Witnesses procur'd against the D. and his Friends, by a Person whom they had justly prosecuted to Sentence of death, and who is evidently guilty of Disloyalty to a Prince, whose Bread he eat, and whose Commission he bore. Of Robbery. (Of Assaulting, Imprisoning, and threatening to hang Persons of Quality. Of a barbarous Rape upon a Noble Lady. Of open Rebellion. Of Forgery. Of turning Papist, and of repeated and continued Treasons against the Queen and his Country.

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